

# TIMELINEZ

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THE JOINT NEWSLETTER OF THE THREE TIMEX-SINCLAIR  
USER GROUPS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA  
\*\* EBZUG PUG SVSTUG \*\*

## PUG NEWS by Norm Lehfeldt

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS, NEW HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE ARE FEATURES OF MARCH MEETING

New interest in T/S telecommunications has been sparked by the availability of really cheap modems. (Uncased but operational 2050 modems have recently been marketed for as little as \$20.)

This was apparent at the March 16 PUG meeting which broke up into a number of informal seminars for those who had new modems and needed a few pointers on hooking them up and learning to use the various terminal programs available. We expect to continue this activity, perhaps including an on-line demonstration of electronic bulletin boards and data bases such as CompuServe, at the April 20 meeting.

Jack Bohany now claims to have completed his improvements to MSCRIPT (I say this somewhat sceptically because Jack seems always to be able to come up with further innovations!) and demonstrated it at the meeting.

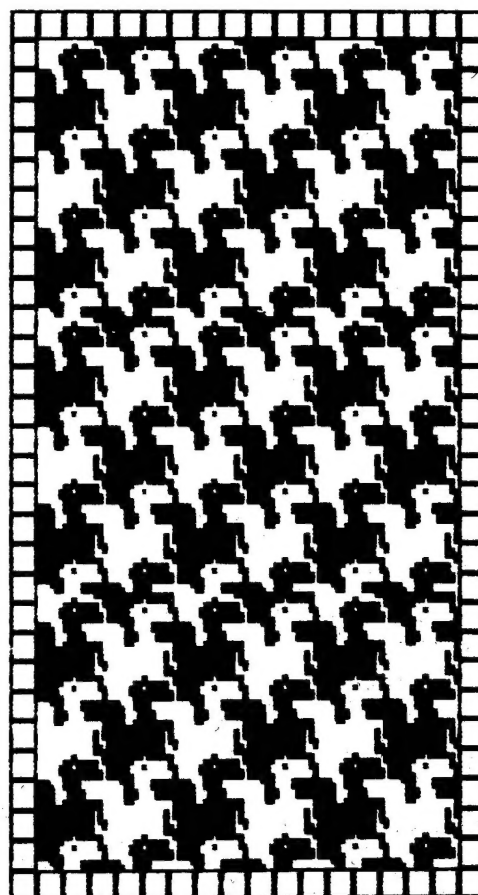
The program is now compatible with virtually every mass-storage device and printer interface available for the 2060, offers keyboard options to suit personal tastes and has many other enhancements that make MSCRIPT the most versatile writing tool yet for the 2060. Its major remaining limitation is the text-storage limitation of the 2060 itself.

The improved program is available at modest cost directly from Jack to anyone who owns a legal copy of MSCRIPT. Sunset Electronics and other dealers have the original program in stock.

Thanks to Sunset Electronics, we had the new Spectrum 128 available for hands-on play at the meeting. The machine is conceptually similar to the Commodore 128...that is...two essentially incompatible machines in the same box. Data programs written for the 40K Spectrum cannot be easily expanded to take advantage of the extra RAM. Two game programs for the 128K mode are supplied with the machine. They had typical Spectrum graphics. One supposes that there are more rooms, levels, whatever, because of the expanded memory but we were not able (or interested enough) to play that long. For the curious, the machine is on display at Sunset.

See you at the April 20 meeting!!!

## FLYING HORSES by Walt Gaby



## C O N T E N T S

PUG NEWS, Norm Lehfeldt	197
SPECTRUM GAMES, David Gray	198
PUG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION	199
PRINTING TRUE, O. Jefimenko	200
NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE	202
THE QL SCENE, Norm Lehfeldt	203
TXTWRITER 1000, John Ezike	204
COMPUTER CALENDAR	205
TIMEX REPAIRS	206

## A REVIEW OF SPECTRUM GAMES

by David Gray

DK'TRONICS strikes again with another smash hit "Spawn of Evil". The instructions are included on one side of the tape, while the program is on the other. "Spawn of Evil" is very similar to the 2048 version of Timegate, by allowing a 3-D perspective from the cockpit of a star fighter. Aliens, which continue to multiply, invade. Some aliens can clone themselves, while others attack with plasma bombs. The object is simply to destroy all of the aliens.

GRAPHICS : \*\*\*\*  
SOUND EFFECTS : \*\*  
INTEREST : \*\*\*\*  
SKILL LEVEL : \*\*\*\*\*

Another interesting game by DK'TRONICS is "Maziacs" which has been on the market from some time. It is almost identical to the Timex 1000 version of "Mazogs". Your object is to gain treasure to score points, by running through a maze containing hundreds of Maziacs. Food, in this game, is necessary to find. Swords are hidden in the randomly generated maze of madness, which allow a 100% chance of survival against Maziac attack. Without the sword, the chance is slim. Prisoners will guide you through the maze by giving you directions. Also, a view of the maze can be raised by pressing a button. The major difference between the Spectrum version and the 1000 version, is that the computer doesn't show the solution of the maze after the game is over! Why ?? I don't know!

GRAPHICS : \*\*\*\*  
SOUND EFFECTS : \*\*  
INTEREST : \*\*\*  
SKILL LEVEL : \*\*\*\*

"Pitfall II", by ACTIVISION has finally been released for the Spectrum. The object is the same as "Pitfall II" for all other popular computers. You must rescue your niece, Rhonda your mountain lion, Quickclaw, and the famous Raj Diamond. Your enemies are scorpions, condors, bats, electric eels, and poisonous frogs. There is an optional bonus for gaining possession of gold bars, and the capture of a legendary giant rat. The sound effects, (luckily), can be turned off by pressing the space bar. (This was not listed in the instructions). This is a shame, because the Spectrum only uses only one sound channel.

GRAPHICS : \*\*\*\*  
SOUND EFFECTS : \*  
INTEREST : \*\*\*\*\*  
SKILL LEVEL : \*\*\*\*\*

### PUG MEMBERSHIP INFO

The PUG membership list has recently been entered into a new data-base file. Now would be a good time for all PUG members to review the data shown on their TIMELINEZ mailing label. Below is a key to the symbols shown next to your name on the label. If you would like to change any of the information shown there, please send any changes to Pat Morrissey at:

C.P. Morrissey  
2000 Crystal Springs Road  
Bldg 21, Apt 22  
San Bruno, CA 94066

or give him a call at (415) 952-5068. He has now taken on the Secretary/Treasurer duties for PUG.

In addition, please make all MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION CHECKS out to "C.P. Morrissey" and send them to the same address.

We are considering issuing a membership directory, possibly in conjunction with the other two Bay Area Users Groups. It is possible that two versions of this directory would be produced, one for members only which would contain addresses and phone numbers (where known) in addition to some added data, e.g., areas of specialization which might be of interest to members, special hardware items, etc. A second version showing only names and addresses might be available to other interested parties (read that as known Timex/Sinclair product vendors). If you want to be excluded from either directory or if you want to include (or exclude) any special notes in the members-only directory, let Pat know.

PUG STATUS/DATE INFO on address labels:

The letter after your name indicates your PUG membership and TIMELINEZ subscription status.

- "A" - Full membership with all priveleges.
- "N" - TIMELINEZ-subscription-only member.
- "E" - Newsletter Exchange program.
- "P" or "R" - Complimentary copy.

For categories "A" and "N", the date which follows indicates the last issue for which you have paid. PLEASE, send money to Pat before your membership expires to insure that you don't miss one exciting issue of TIMELINEZ. The other codes usually won't have a date listed on the label as these are subject to review on a month-to-month basis.

BY OLEG D. JEFIMENKO

Have you ever tried to copy drawings from the monitor screen with your 2040 printer? If you have, you know that the printer does not reproduce them correctly: circles become ellipses, squares become elongated and distorted, angles between slanted lines become enlarged or reduced. The reason for these changes is that 2040 printer uses a pixel grid with rectangular rather than with square cells (the original Sinclair printer used a pixel grid with square cells).

A simple adjustment of your PLOT or DRAW statements will produce geometrically correct prints of all curves, shapes, and patterns. All that you need to do is to divide the variable part of the x coordinates in the PLOT or DRAW statements by the "aspect ratio,"  $A=0.82$ , or to multiply the variable part of the y coordinates by the same ratio. The effect of such an adjustment can be demonstrated with the following examples.

Program 1 (TS 1000 or 1500) draws a diagonal square on the monitor screen. When the square is printed by using the COPY command, the printer changes it into a "diamond," or rhombus (Fig. 1).

Program 2 draws the same square but incorporates the aspect-ratio correction. The print is now a true square, although somewhat distorted because of the low resolution of the computer (Fig. 2). Incidentally, the expressions placed in parentheses in lines 20-50 of Programs 1 and 2 are the variable parts of the x and y coordinates. The constant parts are the coordinates of the center of the square,  $x=31$  and  $y=21$ . As mentioned above, only the variable parts need to be adjusted in order to produce correct prints.

Program 3 (TS 1000 or 1500) draws a circle on the monitor screen. When copied by the printer, the circle becomes an ellipse (Fig. 3).

Program 4 draws the same circle corrected for aspect ratio. The print is now a true circle (Fig. 4).

Program 5 (TS 2068) draws a slanted equilateral triangle on the monitor screen by using a DRAW statement (the same triangle can be drawn by using a PLOT statement, but DRAW is much faster). The printed copy of the triangle is badly distorted (Fig. 5).

Program 6 draws the same triangle corrected for aspect ratio. Now the triangle is equilateral, as it should be (Fig. 6).

Program 7 (TS 2068) draws a circle by using a CIRCLE statement. When copied, the circle becomes an ellipse (Fig. 7).

Program 8 draws the same circle by using a PLOT statement with aspect-ratio correction (there is no way to use the aspect-ratio correction with CIRCLE statements). The printed copy is a perfect circle (Fig. 8).

Naturally, you cannot use the same PLOT or DRAW statements to create a correct drawing both on the monitor screen and on the printout; one or the other will always be distorted.

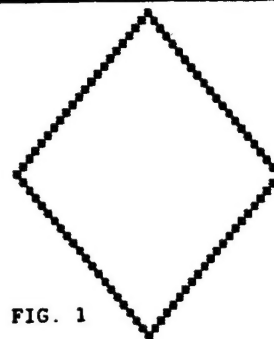


FIG. 1

```
10 FOR X=0 TO 21
20 PLOT 31+X,21-(21-X)
30 PLOT 31+(21-X),21+X
40 PLOT 31-X,21+(21-X)
50 PLOT 31-(21-X),21-X
60 NEXT X
```

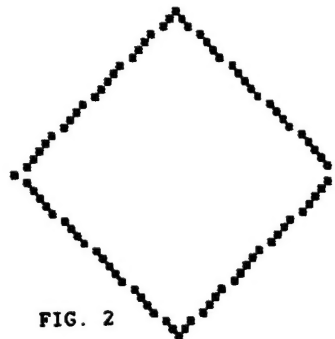


FIG. 2

```
10 FOR X=0 TO 21
20 PLOT 31+X/.82,21-(21-X)
30 PLOT 31+(21-X)/.82,21+X
40 PLOT 31-X/.82,21+(21-X)
50 PLOT 31-(21-X)/.82,21-X
60 NEXT X
```

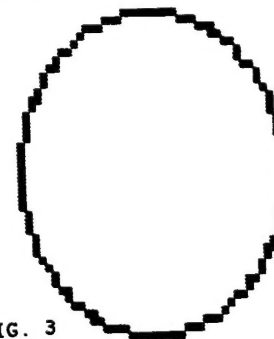


FIG. 3

```
10 FOR T=0 TO 2*PI STEP 1/21
20 PLOT 31+21*COS T,21+21*SIN
30 NEXT T
```

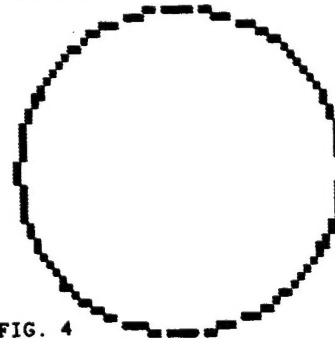


FIG. 4

```
10 FOR T=0 TO 2*PI STEP 1/21
20 PLOT 31+21*COS T/.82,21+21*
SIN T
30 NEXT T
```

What happens if you incorporate the aspect-ratio correction into the y coordinates rather than into the x coordinates? Remove the division by 0.82 in the above programs and multiply the variable parts of the y coordinates by 0.82 instead. The printed copies will be correct again, although smaller than before. For this reason it is usually safer to incorporate the aspect-ratio correction into the y coordinates: since the drawings become smaller, there is no danger of running out of screen when the correction is made.

As the final demonstration of the aspect-ratio correction, examine Figs. 9 and 10. They show the two ornamental designs created by Ted Knysek (RAMTOP, December 1985, p. 3) corrected for aspect ratio. The original shapes were elliptical; the corrected ones are circular. The correction was made by using  $x/0.82$  instead of  $x$  in the DRAW statements of the original programs.

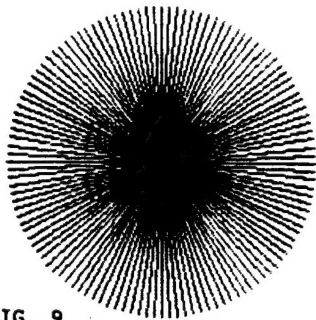


FIG. 9

```
5 FOR A=0 TO 360 STEP 3
10 LET X=80*SIN (A*PI/180)
20 LET Y=80*COS (A*PI/180)
25 PLOT 128,87: DRAW X/.82,Y
30 NEXT A
```

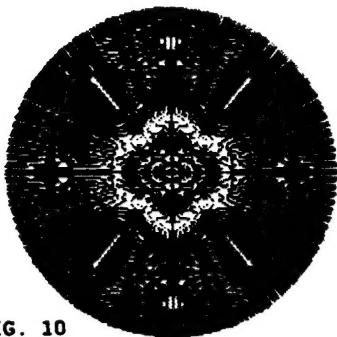


FIG. 10

```
10 OVER 1
20 LET LI=480
30 LET A=0: LET ANG=2*PI/LI
40 FOR I=1 TO LI
50 LET X=85*COS A
60 LET Y=85*SIN A
70 PLOT 128,87
80 DRAW X/.82,Y
90 LET A=A+ANG
100 NEXT I
110 OVER 0
```

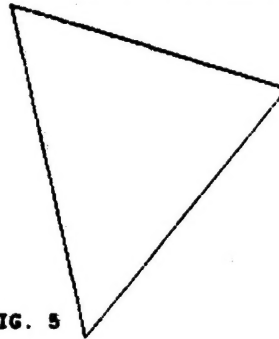


FIG. 5

```
10 PLOT 48,174
20 DRAW 174+SIN (PI/12),-174
30 DRAW 174-174*SIN (PI/12),174
40 DRAW -174,174+SIN (PI/12)
```

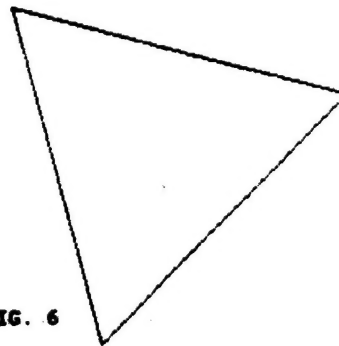


FIG. 6

```
10 PLOT 48,174
20 DRAW 174+SIN (PI/12)/.82,-174
30 DRAW (174-174*SIN (PI/12))/
.82,174-174*SIN (PI/12)
40 DRAW -174/.82,174+SIN (PI/12)
```

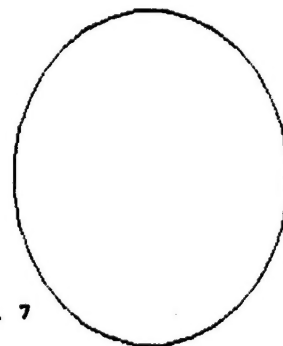


FIG. 7

```
10 CIRCLE 128,87,87
```

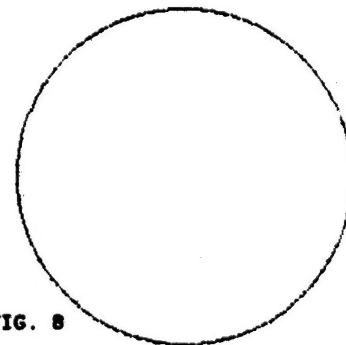


FIG. 8

```
10 FOR T=0 TO 2*PI STEP 1/87
20 PLOT 128+87*COS T/.82,87+87
*SIN T
30 NEXT T
```

EDITOR'S NOTE: For full-size printers, I find that an aspect ratio of .91 (rather than .82) works very well.

FROM THE JAN/FEB 1986 SYNAPSE  
N/L OF THE CENTRAL PENN. USERS.

```

5 PRINT "      My Favorite Triangle"
20 PLOT 48,88: DRAW 0,-12: DRAW 96,-48
30 DRAW 12,6: DRAW 0,96: DRAW -12,6: DRAW -96,-48
40 DRAW 84,-42: DRAW 0,60
50 PLOT 144,28: DRAW 0,84
60 PLOT 156,130: DRAW -84,-42: DRAW 60,-30
70 PLOT 144,112: DRAW -60,-30

```



by  
Norm Lehfeldt

Since the microdrives are widely perceived as the QL's Achilles heel, I want to say that I have encountered no reports of trouble with them other than the occasional bad cartridge. The only problem I have experienced is a single bad cartridge. And a little tinkering with the pressure-pad

That's still up to ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZinclair.

**F O R   S A L E**

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**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

## \* TEXTWRITER 1000 ENHANCEMENTS \*

BY JOHN EZIKE

ONE OF THE BEST WORD PROCESSORS AROUND FOR THE ZX/TS COMPUTERS IS TEXTWRITER 1000 BY ROBERT FINGERLE (SEE REVIEW IN SYNC JAN/FEB 84). HOWEVER, THERE ARE A FEW ENHANCEMENTS THAT I FOUND WHICH MAKE IT EVEN EASIER TO USE.

IN TYPE MODE, SCREEN FLICKER CAN BE A BIT OF A PROBLEM. IF YOU HAVE A VIDEO INVERTER BOARD (SEE POPULAR ELECTRONICS 5/83) IT IS NOT SO BAD. THE FOLLOWING LINES WILL ELIMINATE SCREEN FLICKER, ENABLE AUTO REPEAT WHEN ANY KEY IS HELD DOWN, WITHOUT AFFECTING THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM. DELETING CHARACTERS WILL BE SLIGHTLY SLOWER. LOAD "" AND AFTER THE MENU COMES UP ENTER STOP (SHIFT A) TO BREAK OUT OF THE PROGRAM. ENTER LIST 135 THEN TYPE AND ENTER 160 TO DELETE THE LINE. ADD THE FOLLOWING LINES.

```
140 SLOW
173 IF A$="" THEN GOTO 170
```

THE FOLLOWING LINES SIMPLIFY THE TASK OF PRINTING MULTIPLE COPIES OF YOUR FILE. IF YOU ENTER OPTION 4 OR 5 FROM THE MAIN MENU A PROMPT WILL REQUIRE THAT YOU ENTER THE NUMBER OF COPIES YOU WANT. THE FAMILIAR PROMPTS REQUESTING THE START AND FINAL LINES WILL THEN BE DISPLAYED. ENTER LIST 80 AND USING THE DOWN CURSOR (SHIFT 6) AND EDIT KEYS (SHIFT 1) RENUMBER LINE 97 SO IT IS NOW LINE 98. ALSO RENUMBER LINE 95 SO IT IS NOW LINE 97. ADD THE FOLLOWING LINES.

```
86 IF LN=4 OR LN=5 THEN GOTO 9
5
88 GOTO 98
95 PRINT AT 16,0;"ENTER NUMBER
OF COPIES"
96 INPUT NC

5535 FOR O=1 TO NC
5595 NEXT O
```

IN LINES 5535 AND 5595 THE "O" USED AS A VARIABLE IS THE LETTER AND NOT ZERO. ENTER GOTO 35 AND SELECT OPTION 3 FROM THE MENU TO SAVE. #DO NOT USE RUN#. THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN USING THE ENHANCED VERSION. HAPPY COMPUTING.

JOHN EZIKE  
1619 GRANT ST. APT. 6  
BERKELEY, CA 94703

.\*

## E R R A T A

(which is more than one erratum)

Al Hartman, SYSOP for ZEBRA BBS, asks that readers take note of the following corrections to the telecommunications article by Ed Grey in the January issue of TIMELINEZ:

1. The ZEBRA BBS is located in Woodhaven, NY...not in Long Island. Woodhaven, he claims, is in Queens.

(Editor's Note: Not to quibble, but Queens...like Brooklyn...is on Long Island. Furthermore, Woodhaven is just up the street from the Schenck House...which IS in Brooklyn. Al is quite correct, however; Woodhaven IS in Queens.)

2. The MICRO SYSTEMS BBS no longer supports T/S users.
3. OMNI-NET BBS is NOT reached at (718) 296-2385! That is ZEBRA's ORDER LINE.
4. MINI-BIN BBS does not exist. The phone number shown in the Grey article is that of OMNI-NET... located not in Queens but (yes, you guessed it) in Brooklyn!

I have made all of the above corrections to my copy of the Grey article; I urge you to do the same!

I REALLY HATE THIS DAMN MACHINE,  
I WISH THAT I COULD SELL IT.  
IT NEVER DOES QUITE WHAT I WANT,  
BUT ONLY WHAT I TELL IT.

Passed on by John Shore in  
"The Sachertorte Algorithm"



\* \* \* \* \*

## COMPUTER CALENDAR

\* \* \* \* \*

### ----- A P R I L -----

- 20 Peninsula User Group 1:00  
Peninsula Hospital  
1783 El Camino Real  
Burlingame
- 24 East Bay User Group 7:30  
West Branch Library  
1125 University Avenue  
Berkeley
- 30 Silicon Valley User Group 7:00  
Cupertino Library  
10400 Torre Avenue  
Cupertino

### ----- M A Y -----

- 3 Bay Area Computer Swap  
Cow Palace  
San Francisco 10 am to 5 pm  
Admission: \$5
- 18 Peninsula User Group 1:00
- 22 East Bay User Group 7:30
- 27 Silicon Valley User Group 7:00

\* \* \* \* \*

THE COMPUTER SHOW  
EVERY WEDNESDAY, 8 TO 9 P.M.  
TV STATION KSTS, CHANNEL 48

\* \* \* \* \*

**E B U G** EAST BAY USER GROUP  
\*\*\*\*\* 654 40th STREET  
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA 94805  
(415) 234-3310

PRESIDENT: (VACANT)

MEETINGS: FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:30 P.M.  
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**P U G** PENINSULA USER GROUP  
\*\*\*\*\* 263 GATEWAY, NO. 107  
PACIFICA, CALIFORNIA 94044  
(415) 359-3198

PRESIDENT: GEORGE HOCKRIDGE

MEETINGS: THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 1:00 P.M.  
PENINSULA HOSPITAL  
1783 EL CAMINO REAL, BURLINGAME

MAIL DUES TO 'PAT MORRISSEY', 2000 CRYSTAL SPRINGS ROAD,  
BLDG 21, APT 22, SAN BRUNO, CA 94066

**S V S T U G** SILICON VALLEY SINCLAIR TECHNOLOGY USER GROUP  
\*\*\*\*\* 6675 CLIFFORD DRIVE  
CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA 95014  
(408) 253-3175

PRESIDENT: RITA CARR, (408) 738-2888, X-4579

MEETINGS: LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:00 P.M.  
CUPERTINO LIBRARY  
10400 TORRE AVENUE, CUPERTINO

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THIS TIMELINEZ NEWSLETTER IS A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE THREE  
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SVSTUG (Silicon Valley Sinclair Timex User Group)  
or GUTS de Silicon Valley?  
NEWS  
(SinLink 86047)  
By Bill Miller (408 253-3175)

This is being written using SPECTRAL WRITER and the Mafadrive (available from Banco Enterprises (617) 678-2110).

We will try printing it out on the TS2040 Printer and also on an HI-80 thru the parallel (Centronics) port (Channel) on the Mafadrive.

We will then SAVE the text to the Mafadrive and print out a Mafadrive Directory using the CAT 1 command.

Upcoming SVSTUG meetings (At Cupertino Library- 7:00 P.M.)

April 30, Wednesday

May 27, Tuesday

June 26, Thursday

At the 860225 SVSTUG meeting, Terry Greenlee and Bill Miller demonstrated the TS2050 Modems and Tiny BBS for the TS2040.

Ed Burton of the Merced TS User Group (GUTS de Merced?) called to inquire about a schematic for a Keapton compatible joystick interface for the Spectrum.

Can anyone help? Ed suspects it was in L.I.S.T.ings (GUTS de Long Island?) about a year ago. I looked thru all SVSTUG's L.I.S.T.ings but couldn't find it.

Dan Houray reports a Keapton Compatible joystick interface designed by Steve Hyatt is available from G. Russel Electronics. It might be something to think about Ed.

I did find an excellent article on how to convert a Spectrum to U.S. power and TV by Bob Bolder in the 8503 L.I.S.T. ing Page 13, 14 and 15.

Thanks to Terry Greenlee and David Gray for borrowing the Spectrums and Mafadrives loaned to SVSTUG by A&J Microdrive.

Hopefully they will be able to figure out how to get the TS2050 Modems to work with these.

Thanks to Dan Houray for contributing a copy of Spectra to the SVSTUG library. Spectra is an X-MODEM protocol terminal program from Computer Answers Magazine for the Spectrum. Maybe someone can convert it to work with the Mafadrive and TS2050.

Thanks to Dale Ahlstrom for looking thru the 8601 and 8602 SVSTUG Newsletter Exchange File for articles of interest to TS1000 users. Hopefully Dale will write us a report for TIMELINEZ.

Thanks to John Ezike for donating a ton of catalogs to the SVSTUG Catalog File. Can we get a volunteer to index these?

Thanks to John Warburton of Sunset Electronics for loaning us a Spectrum 128 for demonstration at the 860316 PUG meeting. Thanks to Nora Lehfeldt for demonstrating it. Boy, does it take a long time for 128K to load from cassette!

At the 860401 SVSTUG meeting interest in the TS2050 Modem deal from ZENON systems (718 296-2385) was high. Terry Greenlee reports that 18 of the 20 Modems (at \$7 each!) worked!

Bill Miller demonstrated the Banco Mafadrive hooked to the Spectrum.

Welcome to new SVSTUG member Rich Silva.

## SINCLAIR SOLD TO AMSTRAD

AS REPORTED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (APRIL 8), AMSTRAD CONSUMER ELECTRONICS HAS PURCHASED SINCLAIR RESEARCH LIMITED. THE AMOUNT PAID FOR THE SINCLAIR COMPANY WAS \$7.3 MILLION.

THE ARTICLE INDICATES THAT, ALTHOUGH THE SINCLAIR FIRM WAS HAVING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, THE SALE WAS UNEXPECTED. THE ARTICLE CONSIDERS THIS SALE AS "THE END OF AN ERA"

AMSTRAD CURRENTLY PRODUCES ITS OWN COMPUTER, WITH SALES OF 750,000 IN 1985 AND EXPECTED SALES OF ONE MILLION IN 1986. AMSTRAD'S DISTRIBUTION NETWORK IN THE U.S. IS THROUGH SEARS.

AN AMSTRAD SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT THEY WILL BEGIN MANUFACTURING SINCLAIR COMPUTERS AS SOON AS CONTRACTS WITH EXISTING SUPPLIERS EXPIRE LATER THIS YEAR.

MEANWHILE, SIR CLIVE WILL RETURN TO HIS FIRST LOVE...BEING AN INVENTOR!

## T/S REPAIRS AT SUNSET

Sunset Electronics is now offering repair work on Timex-Sinclair computers. Rex Lundgren (PUG member) is performing the repairs in conjunction with Sunset. To our knowledge, this is the first time anyone west of the Mississippi has offered this service. (You will recall recent articles on hardware modifications by Rex in TIME-LINEZ.) For further information, call Sunset Electronics at 415-665-8330 or stop in at 2254 Taraval Street in San Francisco, California 94116.

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